



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Chapter 860 Cleveland, Tennessee 37312 February 2014

**Dan Herron, President Ron McCall, Vice-President Danny Britt, Secretary and Treasurer,
Maxine Eaves, Legislative Belinda Rollens, Sunshine Dean McAlister, Membership Chair**

FEATURED MEMBER

With this edition of the newsletter, incoming Vice-president Ron McCall is in "The Spotlight." Ron McCall was born and raised in Asheville, NC. After high school graduation, he attended Mars Hill College and NC State University, pursuing the civil engineering field. In 1964, he married the love of his life, Celeste, who has been a co-partner with him as they invested their lives in various locations as a result of being employed by the U.S. Forest Service. Ron's Forest Service career began in 1962 as a civil engineering technician in Asheville with the National Forest of NC. Responsibilities included road location and design on several ranger districts. In 1972, he transferred to the Forest Service regional office, engineering department in Denver, CO. His duties there consisted of providing engineering support for a computer based road design system. In 1975 he transferred to the Forest Service regional office, engineering department in Atlanta, GA, where he coordinated and supported engineering computer programs for engineering staffs on national forests in the southeast. In 1994, he accepted a construction inspector position on the Cherokee National Forest for the construction of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics event to be held on what is now identified as the Ocoee Whitewater Center. This two year

assignment involved being in the river bed on a daily basis, working with contractors and their teams to provide a successful completion of a project with time limit deadlines.

Following the Olympic project, he accepted temporary assignments in Virginia, overseeing hurricane damage repairs to National Forest roads. After 35 years of service Ron completed his Forest Service career in 1997.

During the ten year period after retirement, Ron was involved periodically as an independent contractor, accepting temporary assignments in the south and Midwest whenever major fire and hurricane damage required additional personnel.

Ron and Celeste have three children - a son and family in Birmingham, AL, a daughter and family in Princeton, WV, and a daughter and family in Athens, Greece. Ron, being a devoted grandfather, stated "three different locations with nine grandchildren means you guessed, it, road and air excursions whenever possible."

Reflection on his successful working career and a devoted family life, Ron summed it up this way, "I am a Christian and my life action verse is Colossians 3:23. Our family has always been involved in a church where we lived. I am currently serving as a Bible teacher at First Baptist Church Cleveland, where

Celeste and I also serve in other volunteer capacities.”

Regarding his passion for the mission of NARFE, Ron said, “I am honored to serve the Cleveland Chapter in 2014 as we seek to protect the benefits which were a part of our employment.”

SPECIAL MEMBERS RECEIVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The December meeting honored five special members. Distinguished Service Certificates were presented to Charles Dupre, Ben Stansel, Elbert Schrader, Don Rollens and Cathryne Blocker by TN NARFE Federation 1st Vice-President Larry Minnear. These certificates recognize members for their service and support of Chapter 860. A picture commemorating this presentation appeared in the Cleveland Daily Banner on January 15, 2014. Nine other members were recognized for their distinguished service, but were unable to attend the presentation. They are Ruba Allen, Charles Aulds, John E. Carlson, Lewis N. Corrington, Robert F. Griffith, James M. Hendrix, Maria M. Montoya, Leba Sue Thorne-Woodburn and Robert B. Warren.

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS INSTALLED FOR 2014

Incoming Chapter officers were installed by Larry Minnear, TN NARFE Federation 1st Vice-President, during the annual Chapter Christmas banquet on December 12th. These new officers are Dan Herron, Chapter President; Ron McCall, Vice-President; and Danny Britt, Secretary-Treasurer. A picture commemorating this event appeared in the Cleveland Daily Banner on January 15, 2014.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As I begin my first column in the first newsletter of 2014 as your new President, I am honored that you have selected me to serve you during the next two years. I am thankful for the work and effort made by my predecessors. My goal for the Cleveland Chapter is to build on what has already been accomplished by all of you. During my term, I want to emphasize the recruitment of new members to the Chapter. I know we have heard this now for many years. Since we continue to hear about recruitment in this newsletter and during our meetings we know that without a strong recruitment program, in time our Chapter could cease to exist. I don't believe any of you would like to see that happen. I know I would not want that to happen.

Because I feel strongly about this subject, I asked the Chapter leadership to meet with me and discuss some specific goals we can establish to improve our recruitment process. We discussed several ideas, but finally agreed to begin with one approach to help us improve this effort. The specifics are outlined in the membership section of this newsletter. If the approach we are proposing is to be successful it will involve each of you in an active role of recruitment.

Thanks again for your confidence in me as your President. I need your support to help continue to make our Chapter stronger.

NEXT MEETING

The February meeting is scheduled for 12:00 noon on February 13 at the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church on Peerless Road, corner of Peerless and Norman Chapel Road. **Please note this is a noon meeting.**

Our speaker for this meeting will be Bob George. Bob is a practicing CPA in

Cleveland, and is considered an expert in local history earning him the title of “City Historian.” His remarks to the group will focus on his experience, involvement and membership with the Col. Benjamin Cleveland Chapter for the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). Come join the group for what appears to be a very informative program of local interest. After we enjoy our meal and we hear our guest speaker the meeting will conclude with a brief business session.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

If you have not read your February edition of the ***NARFE Magazine***, you missed these words our National President, Joe Beaudoin, said in his monthly column, A Break in the Action: “we can catch our breath – for now.” President Beaudoin continued by stating our “wins” in recent actions by Congress. These actions left no negative impact on current federal employees and annuitants. He mentioned four items of good news for the federal community: (1) no action was taken on the Chained Consumer Price Index (CPI), (2) the supplemental annuity that FERS employees enjoy remains intact, (3) no change was made in how federal retirement benefits are computed (high five versus the current high three formula), and finally, a long awaited “self plus one” option in our health plans. This option has the promise of saving annuitants money by moving families of “two” out of the “self plus family” option that currently includes families regardless of size, may hold costs down and could initially reduce our premiums. No

indication when the Office of Personnel Management will be able to implement this change.

These wins do not mean we can rest on our “laurels.” Please stay attuned to the “Bill Tracker” column in the magazine, and email notices from National Headquarters. We ask, please, that you take appropriate action to make your thoughts known to elected officials.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We ended 2013 with a total of **47** members for the Cleveland Chapter. A lot of ins and outs occurred during the year giving us only a total gain of **1** member. It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to know you cannot grow an organization with this number of additions. This is the reason our President has asked us to increase our recruitment efforts as a top priority that he would like to see each chapter member embrace during this year.

During the meeting called by our President in January, we agreed to expand our recruitment efforts from a “mindset of, when we happen to see a prospective member we will ask them to join” to a very specific collective action that targets specific prospects. After these prospects are identified, specific and periodic actions on our part will be taken to show them why they should become a member of an organization (the only organization) that works every day to protect our earned benefits. This effort will require each of you to be involved. First, we need each of you to bring the names and contact information of retirees or active employees that you know aren’t NARFE members to the February meeting. After the prospect listing is developed, each of you will be asked to

adopt prospects from the list and initiate actions directed toward membership in NARFE. We know in reality that not all prospects will join NARFE in the battle to retain our benefits. However, many are waiting for someone to ask them to become a member. Some of you can testify to that very fact.

ALERT ALERT ALERT

Did you see page 35 of the February issue of the "NARFE Magazine" regarding dues withholding? If you read the ad you can see that if you are not taking advantage of dues withholding, you are losing 15% of your dues. Why would you not want to take advantage of saving 15% of your dues each year?

The TN Federation Convention is scheduled for April 21-22 in Franklin, TN, and it is not too late to register. Let Dean McAlister know if you plan to attend. Come join us and see firsthand the working of NARFE at the State Level.

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